

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HUGH KRETSCHMER,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
BUZZFEED, INC.,  
Defendant.

Case No. 2:24-cv-08016-SPG-SK  
  
STIPULATED PROTECTIVE  
ORDER  
  
[DISCOVERY MATTER]

1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3 (Filing Protected Material), below, that this Stipulated Protective

1 Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local  
2 Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will  
3 be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.  
4

5 B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT  
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7 This action for copyright infringement is likely to involve documents that  
8 disclose customer details and contact information not generally known to the public  
9 competitively sensitive pricing and financial information, and agreements that have  
10 confidentiality provisions therein. Other proprietary information for which special  
11 protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than  
12 prosecution of this action is warranted may also need to be exchanged between the  
13 parties. Such confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of,  
14 among other things, confidential business or financial information, information  
15 regarding confidential business practices, or other confidential research,  
16 development, or commercial information (including information implicating  
17 privacy rights of third parties), information otherwise generally unavailable to the  
18 public, or which may be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under  
19 state or federal statutes, court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly,  
20 to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes  
21 over confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately protect information the  
22 parties are entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted  
23 reasonable necessary uses of such material in preparation for and in the conduct of  
24 trial, to address their handling at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of  
25 justice, a protective order for such information is justified in this matter. It is the  
26 intent of the parties that information will not be designated as confidential for  
27 tactical reasons and that nothing be so designated without a good faith belief that it  
28

1 has been maintained in a confidential, non-public manner, and there is good cause  
2 why it should not be part of the public record of this case.

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4 2. DEFINITIONS

5 2.1 Action: *Kretschmer vs. BuzzFeed*, Case No. 2:24-cv-08016-SPG-SK.

6 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the  
7 designation of information or items under this Order.

8 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of  
9 how it is generated, stored, or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for  
10 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in  
11 the Good Cause Statement.

12 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as  
13 their support staff).

14 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information  
15 or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as  
16 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

17 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless  
18 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,  
19 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced  
20 or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

21 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter  
22 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as  
23 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

24 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.  
25 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside  
26 counsel.

27 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association,  
28 or other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

1           2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a  
2 party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and  
3 have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm  
4 which has appeared on behalf of that party, including support staff.

5           2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,  
6 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their  
7 support staffs).

8           2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or  
9 Discovery Material in this Action.

10          2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation  
11 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or  
12 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)  
13 and their employees and subcontractors.

14          2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is  
15 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

16          2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery  
17 Material from a Producing Party.

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19       3. SCOPE

20           The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only  
21 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or  
22 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or  
23 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or  
24 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

25           Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the  
26 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

1 4. DURATION

2 Even after final disposition of this litigation, as defined in Section 13 (FINAL  
3 DISPOSITION), the confidentiality obligations imposed by this Order shall remain  
4 in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order  
5 otherwise directs.

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7 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

8 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.

9 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under  
10 this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that  
11 qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for  
12 protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written  
13 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents,  
14 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept  
15 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

16 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations  
17 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper  
18 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose  
19 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating  
20 Party to sanctions.

21 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it  
22 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must  
23 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

24 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in  
25 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of Section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise  
26 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection  
27 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or  
28 produced.

1 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

2 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic  
3 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial  
4 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend  
5 “CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that  
6 contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page  
7 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected  
8 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

9 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for  
10 inspection need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has  
11 indicated which documents it would like copied and produced. During the  
12 inspection and before the designation, all of the material made available for  
13 inspection shall be deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has  
14 identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must  
15 determine which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this  
16 Order. Then, before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must  
17 affix the “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains Protected Material.  
18 If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the  
19 Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making  
20 appropriate markings in the margins).

21 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify  
22 the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the  
23 deposition all protected testimony.

24 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and  
25 for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on  
26 the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the  
27 legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information  
28 warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the

1 protected portion(s).

2 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent  
3 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive  
4 the Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material.  
5 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable  
6 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this  
7 Order.

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9 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

10 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a  
11 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court's  
12 Scheduling Order.

13 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party Shall initiate the dispute  
14 resolution process under Civil Local Rule 37-1 et seq.

15 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be  
16 on the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper  
17 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other  
18 parties), may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating  
19 Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall  
20 continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it  
21 is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the  
22 challenge.

23  
24 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

25 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that  
26 is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with  
27 this Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action.  
28 Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and



1 under the conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been  
2 terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of Section 13 below  
3 (FINAL DISPOSITION).

4 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at  
5 a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the  
6 persons authorized under this Order.

7 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless  
8 otherwise ordered by the Court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a  
9 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated  
10 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

11 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as  
12 well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably  
13 necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

14 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of  
15 the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

16 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom  
17 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the  
18 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

19 (d) the Court and its personnel;

20 (e) court reporters and their staff;

21 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional  
22 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have  
23 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

24 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a  
25 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

26 (h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in  
27 the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing  
28 party requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2)



1 they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the  
2 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise  
3 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the Court. Pages of transcribed  
4 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may  
5 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except  
6 as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

7 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,  
8 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

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10 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED  
11 IN OTHER LITIGATION

12 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation  
13 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as  
14 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

15 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification  
16 shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

17 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order  
18 to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the  
19 subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include  
20 a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

21 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be  
22 pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

23 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with  
24 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this  
25 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the  
26 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s  
27 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking  
28 protection in that court of its confidential material, and nothing in these provisions

1 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action  
2 to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

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4 9. A NON-PARTY'S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE  
5 PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

6 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a  
7 Non-Party in this Action and designated as "CONFIDENTIAL." Such information  
8 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the  
9 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be  
10 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

11 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to  
12 produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is  
13 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's  
14 confidential information, then the Party shall:

15 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party  
16 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement  
17 with a Non-Party;

18 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated  
19 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably  
20 specific description of the information requested; and

21 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-  
22 Party, if requested.

23 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this Court within  
24 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party  
25 may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery  
26 request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall  
27 not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the  
28 confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the Court.

Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this Court of its Protected Material.

10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted to the Court.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

12.1 Right to Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person

1 to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

2 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this  
3 Protective Order, no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to  
4 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this  
5 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any  
6 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

7 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any  
8 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material  
9 may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the  
10 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material  
11 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information  
12 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

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14 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

15 Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims  
16 and defenses in this Action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein  
17 after the completion and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or  
18 reviews of this Action, including the time limits for filing any motions or  
19 applications for extension of time pursuant to applicable law. After the final  
20 disposition of this Action, within 60 days of a written request by the Designating  
21 Party, each Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing  
22 Party or destroy such material. As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material"  
23 includes all copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries, and any other format  
24 reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether the Protected  
25 Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must submit a written  
26 certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the  
27 Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where  
28 appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed; and (2)

1 affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations,  
2 summaries, or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected  
3 Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival  
4 copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal  
5 memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney  
6 work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials  
7 contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute  
8 Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4  
9 (DURATION).

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14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary sanctions.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

DATED: June 25, 2025

/s/ Daniel Cotman

Attorneys for Plaintiff

DATED: June 25, 2025

/s/ Nicholas R. Hartmann

Attorneys for Defendant

FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: June 25, 2025



Honorable Steve Kim  
United States Magistrate Judge

Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 5-4.3.4(a)(2)(i), I, Nicholas R. Hartmann, hereby attest that all other signatories listed, and on whose behalf the filing is submitted, concur in the filing's content and have authorized the filing.

Dated: June 25, 2025

By: /s/ Nicholas R. Hartmann

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name], of  
\_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury  
that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that  
was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California  
on [date] in the case of *Kretschmer vs. BuzzFeed, Inc.*, Case No. 2:24-cv-08016-  
SPG-SK. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated  
Protective Order, and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could  
expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly  
promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject  
to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance  
with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court  
for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this  
Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after  
termination of this action. I hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ [print  
or type full name] of \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type  
full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in  
connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this  
Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State where sworn and signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_